

IN THE CLAIMS:

All pending claims and their present status are produced below.

1-23. (Canceled)

24. (Previously Presented) A system in a supply chain network, the system comprising:

one or more site data appliances comprising one or more types of data source equipment, the one or more site data appliances configured to use a protocol to collect specification information, including event information, from the one or more types of data source equipment, the specification information forming a Description Document;

one or more site servers coupled to one or more site data appliances configured to gather the specification information forming the Description Document from the one or more site data appliances; and

a data center coupled to the one or more site servers configured to automatically generate a mapping table based on the Description Document, which maps the event information, of the one or more site data appliances, to event handlers for execution in response to an event.

25. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 24, wherein the data center sends the mapping of the event information to the one or more site servers.

26. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 24, wherein the Description Document is formed using extensible markup language (XML).

27. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 26, further comprising a portable device coupled with the one or more site servers to access an instance of the Description Document.

28. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 24, wherein the specification information further comprises method and property information.

29. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 28, wherein a dotted notation is used to identify the event, method and property information.

30. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 24, wherein communications between the one or more types of data source equipment, the one or more site data appliances and the one or more site servers utilize the Universal Data Appliance Protocol (UDAP).

31. (Previously Presented) A method in a supply chain network, the method comprising the steps of:

collecting specification information, including event information, from one or more types of data source equipment at one or more site data appliances using a protocol to form a Description Document;

gathering the specification information forming the Description Document from the one or more site data appliances at one or more site servers; and

automatically generating a mapping table based on the description document, which maps the event information, of the one or more data appliances, to event handlers for execution in response to an event.

32. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31, further comprising the step of sending the mapping of the event information to the one or more site servers.

33. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31, wherein the Description Document comprising the specification information of the one or more data source equipment is formed using extensible markup language (XML).

34. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 33, further comprising accessing an instance of the Description Document with a portable device.

35. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31, wherein the specification information further comprises method and property information.

36. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 35, further comprising the step of using a dotted notation to identify the event, method and property information.

37. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31, wherein the step of collecting specification information and gathering the specification information utilizes the Universal Data Appliance Protocol (UDAP).

38. (Previously Presented) A method in a supply chain network, comprising:
creating a Description Document comprising specification information from one or more types of data source equipment using extensible markup language (XML), the specification information comprising information about events that each of the one or more types of data source equipment is capable of generating;
sending the Description Document to a data center, wherein the data center generates a mapping table based on the Description Document to map events with event handlers; and
receiving the mapping table at a site server associated with the one or more types of data source equipment; and
executing an event handler responsive to receiving an event generated by the one or more types of data source equipment.

39. (Previously Presented) A computer program product, comprising:
a computer-readable medium having computer program logic embodied therein for, in a supply chain network:
collecting specification information, including event information, from one or more types of data source equipment at one or more site data appliances using a protocol to form a Description Document;

gathering the specification information forming the Description Document
from the one or more site data appliances at one or more site servers;
and
automatically generating a mapping table based on the description document,
which maps the event information, of the one or more data appliances,
to event handlers for execution in response to an event.

40. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 39, further comprising the step of sending the mapping of the event information to the one or more site servers.

41. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 39, wherein the Description Document comprising the specification information of the one or more types of data source equipment is formed using extensible markup language (XML).

42. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 41, further comprising accessing an instance of the Description Document with a portable device.

43. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 39, wherein the specification information further comprises method and property information.

44. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 43, further comprising the step of using a dotted notation to identify the event, method and property information.

45. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 39, wherein the step of collecting specification information and gathering the specification information utilizes the Universal Data Appliance Protocol (UDAP).

46. (Previously Presented) A system in a supply chain network for configuring asset tracking, the system comprising:

a plurality of types of automated data source equipment, each data source equipment having associated specification information for communicating with the system and event information for providing data to the system;

one or more site data appliances, coupled to the automated data source equipment, the one or more site data appliances to collect specification information and event information, from the automated data source equipment;

one or more site servers, coupled to one or more site data appliances, to generate a description document comprising the specification information from the one or more site data appliances; and

a data center, coupled to the one or more site servers, configured to automatically generate a mapping table, which maps the event information, of the one or more site data appliances, to event handlers in the description document for execution in response to an event, wherein the one or more site servers execute events in accordance with the description document.